

## CONUS VIOLA, A NEW NAME FOR *C. VIOLACEUS* REEVE

Walter O. Cernohorsky

Auckland Institute and Museum  
Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand

### ABSTRACT

*The new substitute name Conus viola is here proposed for the homonymous C. violaceus Reeve, from the tropical West Pacific region.*

#### *Conus viola* Cernohorsky, new name

Figs. 1-3

1844. *Conus violaceus* Reeve, *Conchologia Iconica*, vol. 1, pl. 44, fig. 241; 1858 Sowerby, *Thesaurus Conchyliorum*, vol. 3, p. 45, pl. 208, fig. 537; 1875 Weinkauff, *Martini & Chemnitz Syst. Conchyl. Cabinet*, ed. 2, vol. 4, pt. 2, p. 76, pl. 46, fig. 11; 1937 Tomlin, *Proc. Malac. Soc. London*, vol. 22, p. 328 (erroneously synonymized with *C. luteus* Sowerby) [*non C. violaceus* Gmelin, 1791]

1884. *Conus violaceus* Reeve (*pars*), Tryon, *Manual of Conchology*, vol. 6, p. 88, pl. 28, fig. 82 (only)

1964. *Conus luteus* var. Sowerby, Marsh & Rippingale, *Cone shells of the world*, p. 124, pl. 18,

fig. 7 (*non* Sowerby, 1833)

1972. *Conus* species Hinton, *Shells of New Guinea and the central Indo-Pacific*, p. 82, pl. 40, fig. 6.

1975. *Conus violaceus*, *C. tendineus* or *Conus* sp.? Leehman, *Hawaiian Shell News*, vol. 23, No. 6, p. 6, text figs.

*Type locality*: Matnog, Island of Luzon, Philippines.

*Type specimens*: The three syntypes of *C. violaceus* Reeve, accompanied by a label which bears Tomlin's remark = *luteus* Broderip, are in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London. The specimen measuring 41.0 mm in length and 15.0 mm in width, is here selected as the lectotype of *C. violaceus* (= *C. viola* new name).

*Conus violaceus* was first described in literature by Reeve (1844), who based his



FIGS. 1-2. Lectotype of *Conus violaceus* Reeve (= *C. viola* Cernohorsky, new name; B.M.N.H., length 41.0mm, width 15.0 mm. 3. Specimen of *C. viola* from Bathurst Id., Nth.

Australia; length 55.8 mm, width 21.4 mm. 4-5. Topotype of *C. luteus* Sowerby, from Anaa Id., Tuamotus; B.M.N.H., length 38.0 mm.

diagnosis on three specimens from the Cuming collection. Reeve's *C. violaceus*, however, is a primary homonym of *C. violaceus* Gmelin, 1791, which is an earlier name for the Indian Ocean species *C. tendineus* Hwass in Bruguière, 1792. Tomlin (1937) did not propose a replacement name for the homonymous *C. violaceus* Reeve, as he considered this species to be synonymous with *C. luteus* Sowerby, 1833.

*C. viola* and *C. luteus* are similar but quite distinct species, with *C. viola* known only from an area between the Philippines and North Australia, whereas *C. luteus* is widely distributed throughout the tropical Pacific. The average size of *C. viola* is about 50 mm, the shell is cylindrical, the first 2-3 post-embryonic whorls are finely nodulose, the penultimate whorl is inflated and telescopic in appearance, sutures are firmly but irregularly adpressed, the outline of the body whorl is cylindrical with the first two-thirds of the body whorl descending almost vertically before tapering towards the base, the aperture is narrow at the start but slightly flaring basally, and the sculpture consists of 6-10 spiral threads on the spire whorls, obsolete spiral threads on the body whorl and up to a dozen close-set cords at the base. Fresh specimens are pale violet and ornamented with brown spots on the spire whorls, three broad but often dilacerated brown bands on the body whorl which are usually interrupted in the centre of the whorl by a pale band, and spiral rows of small brown spots, aperture pale violet.

*C. luteus* is considerably smaller, averaging about 30 mm in length, the spire is short and convex, whorls are not inflated but tight, the 2-3 post-embryonic whorls are smooth, the sutures are narrowly canaliculate, the shoulder is moderately broad, smooth and sloping and the body whorl tapers rapidly toward the slender base; shell glossy, obsolete spirally striate on the body whorl, the arcuate axial striae on the spire whorls are crisper and spiral threads fewer and the aperture is uniformly narrow and does not flare basally. The colour is yellow, orange, pink or rose-red, the centre of the body whorl has a narrow white band or blotches which are bordered by quadrate, irregular and distinctly smudged dark brown spots, and spiral rows of dark brown interrupted lines are present in some individuals.

Dark coloured specimens of *C. viola* have been illustrated by Leehman (1975) and the banded form by Hinton (1972). The lectotype of *C. viola* is a form where the brown bands are dilacerated into longitudinal zones.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Hinton, A. 1972. *Shells of New Guinea and the Central Indo-Pacific*. R. Brown & Associates Pty. Ltd., Port Moresby, and Jacaranda Press, Milton, 94 pp., 44 col. pls.
- Leehman, E. G. 1975. *Conus* confusion. *Hawaiian Shell News*, 23(6): 6, text figs.
- Reeve, L. 1843-44. *Conchologia Iconica; monograph of the genus Conus*. L. Reeve, London, vol. 1, 47 pls.
- Tomlin, J. R. le B. 1937. Catalogue of Recent and Fossil Cones. *Proc. Malac. Soc. London*, 22: 205-330.

## THE NAUTILUS

### Back Volumes 1 through 40

High quality reprintings are now available from our office. The cost of the handsomely bound set, in green buckram, is little more than the price of the paperbound. Index to volumes 1 through 34 available separately for \$12.00 (paperbound).

<i>Clothbound</i> , vols. 1-40 (with Index)	\$482.00
<i>Paperbound</i> , vols. 1-40 (with Index)	\$412.00
<i>Original, unbound</i> vols. 72-89	\$10.00 per vol.

Postage free if payment accompanies order.

Order from: **The Nautilus**  
P.O. Box 4208  
Greenville, De. 19807

